

XXV. *Description of the female sex of Morpho adonis,*
Cram. By W. L. DISTANT.

[Read August 3rd, 1881.]

PLATE XX.

♂. *Papilio adonis*, Cram., Pap. Ex., i. t. 61, A. B.
 (1779).

Morpho adonis, Godt., Enc. Méth., ix. p. 439, n. 3
 (1823).

♀. *Papilio marcus*, Schall., Naturf., xxi. p. 174, n. 4,
 t. 4, f. 1, 2 (1785).

Zeuxidia marcus, Kirby, Syn. Cat. Diurn. Lep., p. 116,
 8 (1871).

Under the name of *P. marcus*, Schaller undoubtedly described and figured the female sex of this butterfly. The figure itself, however, is so indifferent, the colour being actually misleading,—no locality being cited as a habitat,—that lepidopterists have apparently been unable either to identify the insect or place it in its proper genus; Mr. Kirby in his most useful Catalogue not omitting to record the species, and placing it with probability—from the figure—in the genus *Zeuxidia*. Having acquired a specimen from British Guiana, and examined the unrivalled collection of the genus *Morpho* in the possession of Messrs. Godman and Salvin, I have come to the conclusion that this butterfly is certainly the female sex of *M. adonis*, Cram. Although very dissimilar in coloration above to the male sex, a like contrast is exhibited in the sexes of some allied species, and whereas in *Morpho cypris* the females are dimorphic, it is possible that the form here described may prove also to be but one dimorphic phase of the female of *M. adonis*.

Morpho adonis, Cram., female. (Pl. XX., figs. 1, 2).

Wings above brown, with the following pale stramineous markings: primaries with a costal streak

commencing about end of cell, but not reaching apex; a large irregularly-shaped spot a little beyond end of cell, commencing on fourth subcostal nervule and terminating between first and second discoidal nervules; a broad suboblique fascia, commencing at the end of median nervule where it is narrowest, and extending to inner margin where it is widest, profoundly sinuated inwardly above and below second median nervule, and somewhat regularly waved and sublunate outwardly between median nervules; this fascia is immediately followed by a double row of spots, irregular both in size and shape, arranged in pairs between the nervules, commencing between fourth and fifth subcostal nervules, and terminating in a single spot between third median nervule and submedian nervule; a submarginal row of irregularly-shaped and smaller spots situated between the nervules, and gradually increasing in size and distinctness from apex, followed by a series of the same, but much more obscure on posterior margin. Secondaries with an oblique fascia commencing on costa at junction of fascia on primaries, and gradually narrowing till it terminates on third median nervule a little before margin; a submarginal row of elongate and almost continuous spots, followed by a series of similar but more obscure spots on posterior margin; at the termination of central fascia the submarginal row of spots is continuous to anal angle, much waved and bordered outwardly and inwardly with dark brown; anal angle creamy white, with a large fuscous spot at end of submedian nervule, and two pyramidal spots of the same colour on each side of the termination of third median nervule. Wings beneath pale violaceous, the stramineous fasciæ and spots of the upper side visible but paler in colour, and two narrow waved oblique and obscure stramineous fasciæ extending through cell of primaries and terminating on abdominal margin of secondaries; all the pale fasciæ and spots margined inwardly and outwardly with ferruginous, and a posterior submarginal castaneous narrow fascia to both wings. The following ocelli with pale centres and yellow margins bordered with black are placed on each wing; four on primaries situated one between first and second discoidal nervules, midway between end of cell and posterior margin, the second between first and second median nervules, third and largest after second median nervule, and fourth

and smallest before submedian nervure; three on secondaries, first on the two subcostal nervules near their origin, second between second and third median nervules on inner margin of central fascia, and third between the last mentioned nervule and submedian nervure near anal angle, followed inwardly by a small, obscure, and subdeveloped ocellus. Fuscous spots at anal angle as above. Exp. wings, $5\frac{2}{16}$ inch.

Hab. British Guiana.